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PRE-SCHOOLERS BREAK GROUND ON NEW FACILITY



Mansfield, CT – Pre-schoolers from the Community Children's Center gathered at the construction site of their future school today to break ground and meet the Administrator, David Tuttle who helped secure funding for the new facility. The ceremony celebrated USDA Rural Development's announcement of a \$325,000 low interest, federal loan to the Community Children's Center which will be used to construct the new, 2,400 square foot day care center on Mansfield City Road in Storrs.

Formed in 1970 by a group of Mansfield parents, the Community Children's Center is a parent owned and operated cooperative which provides pre-school and day care services to children aged 18 months to 5 years. The center is one of the oldest, continuously open and running childcare centers in the area and currently serves approximately 30 children and families out of the lower level of The Unitarian Fellowship of Storrs.

"With quality teachers, like those here today, and a positive learning environment, like the one that will soon be constructed on this site," said Mr. Tuttle, "these youngsters will be well prepared, both cognitively and socially to pursue their education with enthusiasm and pride." The federal dollars are made available to the Community Children's Center through the USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Loan Program. Through this program, USDA Rural Development provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for the renovation or construction of public buildings, the purchase of public safety equipment, and other activities in rural areas and communities. The USDA loan to the Community Children's Center is repayable over 40 years at an interest rate of 4.75%.

"We are so fortunate to have found out about the USDA Rural Development Loan Program," said Lisa Dahn, director of Community Children's Center. "From our first contact with them right through the granting of the loan, the USDA team was friendly, professional, informative and very helpful to us. We are thrilled to be able

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to build a new home and continue providing high quality care and education to the children in our extended community.”

In a statement regarding today’s event, Congressman Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, said, “The center represents local control at its finest. When it comes to the education of our children the best decisions are generally made by the parents and educators who are closest to them. I am glad that the USDA is providing support so that these committed individuals can continue their good work.”

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